

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

METROPCS, a brand of T-MOBILE USA, Inc., a Delaware Corporation	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	Civil Action No: 4:16-cv-00283
	)	
v.	)	<b>COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES</b>
	)	<b>AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF</b>
	)	
MYNEXTCELLULAR, LLC, a Texas Limited Liability Company; ELTON CHAU; and ANUJ SHAH,	)	<b>JURY TRIAL DEMANDED</b>
	)	
Defendants.	)	
	)	

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**AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

Plaintiff T-Mobile USA, Inc., a Delaware corporation (“T-Mobile”), for itself and its MetroPCS brand (collectively referred to hereafter as “MetroPCS”), hereby files this Amended Complaint for Damages and Injunctive Relief against Defendants MYNEXTCELLULAR, LLC, a Texas Limited Liability Company (“MyNextCellular”); ELTON CHAU (“Chau”); and ANUJ SHAH (“Shah”) (collectively, “Defendants”), and states:

**INTRODUCTION**

1. T-Mobile sells wireless handsets under the brand MetroPCS (“MetroPCS Handsets” or “Handsets”) for use with MetroPCS service on the T-Mobile wireless network. These MetroPCS Handsets are sold at prices significantly below the wholesale cost to MetroPCS so that the Handsets are more widely accessible to consumers. Defendants and their co-conspirators are perpetrators of an unlawful scheme (the “Handset Theft and Trafficking Scheme” or the “Scheme”) to profit, at Plaintiff’s expense, from the illegal acquisition and resale of new

MetroPCS Handsets by stealing the substantial financial investments that Plaintiff makes in the Handsets.

2. On information and belief, Defendants and their co-conspirators acquire new MetroPCS Handsets through various methods, including the use of “runners” and/or “mules.”<sup>1</sup> As part of their Scheme, the new Handsets, which may be purchased and sold multiple times before they are ever used, ultimately end up in the hands of someone other than a MetroPCS customer. Along the way, the Handsets are “unlocked” so they will operate on other wireless networks. Often the ultimate user of the phone is located overseas, in a country where the wireless service provider does not underwrite the cost of new phones.

3. Defendants’ Scheme takes advantage of the fact that while Plaintiff substantially invests in the Handsets to reduce the costs for legitimate MetroPCS consumers, other wireless service providers here or abroad do not. By obtaining the MetroPCS Handsets through theft or fraud and diverting them to other markets where cell phones are not subsidized, the Scheme converts Plaintiff’s investment dollars into profits for Defendants and their co-conspirators. Each of Defendants’ acts, individually as well as together, is a violation of Plaintiff’s rights and causes significant damage. Additionally, as participants in the conspiracy, Defendants are liable for the harm caused to Plaintiff by the entire Scheme.

4. The Scheme causes tremendous harm to MetroPCS and to consumers. In addition to the pecuniary losses caused by Defendants’ theft of Plaintiff’s investment in MetroPCS Handsets, falsely paid commissions, lost sales and market expenses, and lost expected customer revenue, Defendants’ misconduct harms MetroPCS’s relationships with its customers, dealers, and

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<sup>1</sup> A “Runner” is an individual or entity that makes multiple purchases of new MetroPCS Handsets on behalf of phone traffickers like Defendants. A “Mule” is an individual or entity that signs up for wireless service with MetroPCS – never intending to comply with the terms and conditions – to obtain new subsidized MetroPCS Handsets for resale by phone traffickers like Defendants.

others, as detailed more fully below. Defendants' Scheme also involves unlawfully accessing Plaintiff's protected computer systems and wireless network; trafficking of Plaintiff's protected and confidential computer passwords; and willful infringement of the MetroPCS trademarks. Defendants have caused substantial damage to MetroPCS's brand, image, and reputation.

5. Plaintiff seeks to recover damages for the harm caused by Defendants' Handset Theft and Trafficking Scheme, and to obtain an injunction prohibiting Defendants from continuing to perpetrate the Scheme.

6. All conditions precedent to filing this action have been performed, waived or excused.

7. Plaintiff has retained the undersigned attorneys to represent them in this action and have agreed to pay those attorneys a reasonable fee for their services.

#### **PARTIES, JURISDICTION, AND VENUE**

8. This is an action for damages in excess of \$75,000.00, exclusive of interest, costs, and attorneys' fees.

9. T-Mobile is a Delaware corporation, with its principal place of business in Bellevue, Washington.

10. MetroPCS was acquired by T-Mobile USA, Inc. in 2013 and is an exclusive T-Mobile brand.

11. Defendant MyNextCellular is a Limited Liability Company doing business at 1805 Copper Creek Drive, Plano, TX 75074. Upon information and belief, MyNextCellular also does business via several websites, including: mynextcellular.com, cellpex.com, Facebook, and LinkedIn. Upon information and belief, Defendant Chau is the registered agent and manager of MyNextCellular and Defendant Shah is an active manager of MyNextCellular.

12. Defendant Chau is an individual and a resident of Texas and upon information and belief is personally engaged in, and helped facilitate, the improper conduct described herein. Upon information and belief, Chau resides at 1805 Copper Creek Drive, Plano, Texas 75075.

13. Defendant Shah is an individual and a resident of Texas and upon information and belief is personally engaged in, and helped facilitate, the improper conduct described herein. Upon information and belief, Shah resides at 1908 Fairfield Drive, Plano, Texas 75074.

14. Jurisdiction in this Court is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1332, and 1338 because Plaintiff's claims for violation of the United States Trademark Act, Title 15 of the United States Code and the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, 18 U.S.C. § 1030, *et seq.* arise under federal law and because diversity exists between the parties and the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000.00 exclusive of costs, fees, and interest. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367 over Plaintiffs' state law claims because those claims are so related to the federal claims that they form part of the same case or controversy.

15. Defendants Chau and Shah are subject to the personal jurisdiction of this Court because they are residents of Plano, Texas and upon information and belief, they have conducted business ventures within the State of Texas, committed tortious acts within the State of Texas and have engaged in substantial and not isolated activity within the State of Texas. Defendant MyNextCellular is subject to the personal jurisdiction of this Court because it is a Texas corporation and does business in Plano, Texas and has office located in Plano, Texas.

16. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because the Defendants either reside in this district or a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in this judicial district.

### **PLAINTIFFS' BUSINESS MODEL**

17. T-Mobile, which is based in Bellevue, Washington, is a well-established telecommunications leader in product and service innovation. T-Mobile has invested heavily in developing and maintaining its reputation and the reputation of its brands, including MetroPCS. It prides itself on its advanced nationwide 4G LTE network and low cost options provided for its customers. T-Mobile USA, Inc. provides services through its subsidiaries and operates its flagship brands, T-Mobile and MetroPCS. It currently serves approximately 57 million wireless customers and provides products and services through approximately 70,000 total points of distribution.

18. MetroPCS, acquired by T-Mobile on May 1, 2013, has been in the forefront of telecommunications for decades by offering customers reduced-cost handsets and flat-rate wireless service plans. MetroPCS prides itself on the value and variety of device choices from leading brands provided to its customers. The cornerstone of MetroPCS' business model is providing customers with affordable, reliable wireless products and services to match their needs and lifestyles. A flagship brand operated by T-Mobile, MetroPCS products and services are available online and across the United States through a network of company-owned stores and authorized dealer locations, with whom MetroPCS has contractual relationships.

19. T-Mobile and MetroPCS are widely-recognized leaders in prepaid wireless service and highly value the outstanding business reputation they have worked hard to develop. MetroPCS was recognized as a J.D. Power 2014 Customer Champion for the second time — one of only 50 high-performing companies acknowledged for delivering service excellence after being evaluated across five categories including its people, presentation, process, product and price.

20. MetroPCS's wireless program enables MetroPCS customers to choose from several flat-fee monthly voice and data plans for use with cutting edge devices on the T-Mobile wireless

network. For the benefit of its customers, MetroPCS offers budget-friendly Handsets, including the latest smartphones, for little or no upfront cost, no annual service contract, no overages, and no hidden device costs.

21. MetroPCS's business model is based upon the ability to deliver affordable, innovative, and desirable products and services to cost-conscious consumers. Therefore, Plaintiff assists customers in their purchase of MetroPCS Handsets for use on its network by selling the Handsets for less than what Plaintiff pays to the manufacturers for the Handsets. Plaintiff recoups the money it loses on the Handsets and in dealer commissions through revenue earned on the sale of MetroPCS service, which customers must use to transmit and receive voice, text, and data on the MetroPCS Handsets. In addition to subsidizing Handsets, MetroPCS provides discounts, rebates, and other incentive programs by which Plaintiff heavily invests in the Handsets to the ultimate benefit of legitimate MetroPCS customers. This investment is worth making if the customers activate and purchase service on the MetroPCS network. MetroPCS is neither a manufacturer nor a wholesale distributor of Handsets. If MetroPCS was in the business of selling Handsets and not a telecommunications service provider, it could not offer consumers these significantly lower purchase prices and stay in business. Further, these types of substantial subsidies and investment programs are not offered by telecommunications carriers outside the United States; instead, foreign consumers pay full price for the phones from the manufacturers. Handset traffickers profit from the difference between the full value of the Handset and the subsidized price offered by MetroPCS.

22. MetroPCS Handsets are sold subject to terms and conditions ("Terms and Conditions") which restrict and limit the commercial resale and use of the Handsets. A copy of the Terms and Conditions is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**. The packaging of MetroPCS Handset provides that by purchasing or opening the package, activating, using, or paying for MetroPCS

service, the purchaser agrees to the MetroPCS Terms and Conditions posted on [www.metropcs.com](http://www.metropcs.com). Purchasers have the option to return the MetroPCS Handset in accordance with the return policy if they do not agree to the Terms and Conditions. The Terms and Conditions are legally valid and appropriate, and the Terms and Conditions constitute a valid and binding contract between MetroPCS and each of its customers.

23. MetroPCS is able to offer its Handsets to customers at reduced prices only if the Handsets are used as intended with MetroPCS service. Manufacturers that produce wireless phones for MetroPCS install proprietary software, requested and paid for by Plaintiff, on the MetroPCS Handsets. Among other things, this software is intended to prevent the Handsets from being used for other than MetroPCS service, except under circumstance in which legitimate customers meet the criteria to have the Handset unlocked.

24. Wireless technology is constantly changing and improving, and the wireless industry is intensely competitive. MetroPCS expends substantial resources to maintain its position as an industry leader and to ensure that its products and services are at the cutting edge of the latest technological developments. Providing its cost-conscious customers with quality and advanced technology at an affordable price is a key differentiator for MetroPCS and central to its business strategy.

25. Plaintiff invests heavily in efforts to provide MetroPCS customers with the most up-to-date wireless handsets, and shoulders most or all of the cost of purchasing a new phone for those customers. MetroPCS makes phones available to new customers at a low cost when they initiate wireless service, and also to existing customers at regular intervals.

26. As the demand, and therefore the price, for smartphones in various world markets skyrockets, the subsidized MetroPCS smartphones are a particularly attractive and lucrative target for participants in the Handset Theft and Trafficking Scheme.

### **METROPCS TRADEMARK RIGHTS**

27. T-Mobile owns federal trademark registrations for the standard character and stylized MetroPCS® mark (collectively, the “MetroPCS Marks”). Copies of the certificates of registration issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (“USPTO”) are attached hereto as **Composite Exhibit B**.<sup>2</sup> The stylized MetroPCS Marks are depicted below:

The image shows the standard character version of the MetroPCS trademark. The word "metro" is in a bold, black, lowercase sans-serif font, and "PCS" is in a regular weight, black, uppercase sans-serif font.The image shows the stylized version of the MetroPCS trademark. The word "metro" is in a bold, blue, lowercase sans-serif font, and "PCS" is in a regular weight, orange, uppercase sans-serif font.

28. Plaintiff uses the MetroPCS Marks on and in connection with telecommunications products and services.

29. The MetroPCS Marks have become an intrinsic and essential part of the valuable goodwill and property of Plaintiff, who protects the MetroPCS Marks. The MetroPCS Marks are well-established and well-known to customers and the trade as a symbol identifying and distinguishing MetroPCS products and services, and signifying distinctive products and services of high quality. Only Plaintiff and its expressly authorized, affiliated agents are permitted to use the MetroPCS Marks. The MetroPCS Marks are valid, distinctive, protectable, have acquired secondary meaning, and are associated exclusively with Plaintiff and MetroPCS.

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<sup>2</sup> On or around November 3, 2006, MetroPCS, Inc. assigned all of its MetroPCS Marks to MetroPCS Wireless, Inc. as part of a merger agreement. The assignment was recorded with the USPTO on April 3, 2007. On or around May 1, 2013 MetroPCS Wireless, Inc. assigned all of its MetroPCS Marks to T-Mobile USA, Inc. as part of a merger agreement. The assignment was recorded with the USPTO on May 2, 2013.



### **DEFENDANTS' MISCONDUCT**

30. MetroPCS has discovered that, although large quantities of its Handsets are being purchased throughout the United States, a significant number of these Handsets are not being used in connection with its services. Instead, entities and individuals such as Defendants and their co-conspirators, with no intention of lawfully connecting to or using MetroPCS services, are fraudulently acquiring and reselling MetroPCS Handsets in bulk quantities. The Handsets are acquired, either directly by Defendants or through their co-conspirators, and then sold for a substantial profit and shipped directly overseas or shipped to other domestic traffickers who add them to larger shipments headed overseas, to be used on foreign carriers' networks. Before being shipped overseas, the Handsets are usually taken out of their original packaging, and all accessories, warranties, and manuals are removed. The Handsets are often wrongfully unlocked by Defendants or their co-conspirators, to raise their value and prepare them for use on foreign carriers. Those new MetroPCS Handsets acquired through theft or fraud that are not shipped overseas are often sold in bulk domestically for addition to larger overseas shipments or for the warranty market. Defendants undertake these actions for their own profit.

31. Once a MetroPCS Handset is unlocked and shipped overseas or resold domestically to be used on other wireless networks, Plaintiff no longer has a revenue source to recoup its investment in that Handset.

32. If MetroPCS identifies a Handset as connected with theft, fraud, or other loss, the International Mobile Station Equipment Identity ("IMEI") is logged into MetroPCS's system and the Handset can no longer be activated or used on the MetroPCS network unless or until that designation is changed by MetroPCS. This is done in attempt to deter criminal activity. The Handset is thereafter referred to in the handset trafficking community as having a "Bad IMEI." As

it is no longer a functioning MetroPCS Handset, the only value of a Bad IMEI Handset is in unlocking the handset for use on other domestic networks and for overseas resale.

33. Defendants are knowingly and willfully engaged in an enterprise that traffics in and resells MetroPCS Handsets. Defendants have acquired and sold large quantities of MetroPCS Handsets through various co-conspirators. While the complete extent of Defendants' activities in the Handset Theft and Trafficking Scheme is not yet known, Defendants are actively involved in several integral components of the conspiracy.

34. Defendants are not authorized MetroPCS dealers or retailers. Defendants have no legitimate connection to MetroPCS.

35. Defendants traffic illicitly-obtained new MetroPCS Handsets in bulk for resale. MetroPCS uncovered Defendants' activities when MyNextCellular advertised to sell 200 new, unlocked Samsung Galaxy Core Prime Handsets on [www.cellpex.com](http://www.cellpex.com). A copy of the cellpex.com advertisement is attached hereto as **Exhibit C**. On September 2, 2015, an undercover investigator for MetroPCS contacted telephone number 469-734-XXXX via text message to inquire about the Handsets. Defendants confirmed that these were MetroPCS Handsets by sending a photograph of the Handsets in their original MetroPCS boxes. Defendants then emailed a MyNextCellular price list for various handsets available in bulk to the undercover investigators. Copies of the MyNextCellular price list and text message communications between Defendants and the undercover investigator are attached hereto as **Composite Exhibit D**. On information and belief it was Defendant Chau who sent the text message with the photos of the new in-box MetroPCS Handsets.

36. On September 3, 2015, communications continued between the investigator and Defendants. In response to the investigator's inquiries regarding the MetroPCS Samsung Core

Prime Handsets, Defendants offered to sell them to the investigator for less than the \$118 per Handset that they had listed on cellplex.com and asked how many Handsets the investigator wanted to buy. The undercover investigator stated that the Handsets were being purchased for an overseas buyer and suggested that he buy a couple of sample Handsets at first to get an idea of quality and, if they passed, he would buy all of the advertised Handsets. Defendants agreed. The investigator inquired as to whether Defendants would be at the upcoming CTIA convention in Las Vegas. Defendants confirmed that they would be there. The investigator suggested and Defendants agreed to meet at CTIA to inspect the sample MetroPCS Handsets. Defendant Shah was observed at CTIA however the meeting did not occur.

37. Defendants later informed MetroPCS' investigator that they had sold the 200 unlocked new MetroPCS Handsets to another buyer. On information and belief, the 200 unlocked MetroPCS Handsets were not acquired or resold with the intent that they be used for a legitimate purpose, activated or maintained as active on MetroPCS' service, and the Handsets were not acquired or used in accordance with the Terms and Conditions governing the Handsets.

38. Having sold the 200 new MetroPCS Handsets, Defendants offered the investigator other handsets, including unlocked handsets from other carriers and T-Mobile handsets.

39. Plaintiff, through its private investigators and its attorneys, attempted to resolve its claims against Defendants without the need for court intervention. On the morning of December 2, 2015, both MyNextCellular and Chau were served with cease and desist demands and offers to resolve Plaintiff's claims. That afternoon, Defendant Shah and MyNextCellular officer Mario Portilla a/k/a Mauricio Raul Portilla ("Portilla") of Allen, Texas, were also served with cease and desist demands and offers to resolve Plaintiff's claims. Defendants failed to respond to the cease and desist letters as specified. From December 2015 through February 2016, investigators for

MetroPCS attempted to follow-up on the cease and desist letters without success. Based on Defendants' decision to entirely ignore the cease and desist demands, Plaintiff was left with no choice but to bring this action.

**SUBSTANTIAL HARM CAUSED BY DEFENDANTS' MISCONDUCT**

40. Defendants' actions substantially harm Plaintiff in several ways, including *inter alia*: (1) Plaintiff is deprived of the opportunity to recoup its substantial investment in MetroPCS Handsets; (2) Plaintiff is deprived of the opportunity to earn profits by providing wireless service to legitimate MetroPCS consumers; (3) Defendants' actions seriously and irreparably interfere with Plaintiff's relationships with its customers and dealers; and (4) Defendants' infringement of the MetroPCS name and Marks causes significant ongoing and irreparable losses and harm to MetroPCS's brand, image, and reputation. All of these factors undermine Plaintiff's competitive edge in the wireless industry.

41. On information and belief, the conduct of Defendants, their unknown co-conspirators, and others who engage in the unlawful acquisition and resale of large quantities of new MetroPCS Handsets has also resulted in shortages of available MetroPCS Handsets, particularly the most in-demand models. This misconduct substantially harms Plaintiff and its relationship with dealers and consumers because Plaintiff is not able to supply sufficient MetroPCS Handsets to satisfy the demand from legitimate consumers who, as a result, go elsewhere for their telecommunications services.

42. Plaintiff suffers additional, irreparable harm when the MetroPCS Handsets are removed from the original packaging and altered because Plaintiff is deprived of the means to control the quality of its product. This becomes especially damaging where a potential legitimate MetroPCS customer within the United States acquires a Handset from Defendants, that the customer believes is a

genuine MetroPCS Handset, with all of the attendant benefits and is later disappointed in MetroPCS because the Handset does not work as intended on the network because it has been denominated a Bad IMEI Handset or otherwise. Furthermore, the process of unlocking and reselling a MetroPCS Handset voids the manufacturer's warranty on the device. The unlocked repackaged MetroPCS Handsets are then resold without the original manufacturer's warranty documentation. Both consumers and Plaintiff are harmed when a MetroPCS Handset that has been altered or sold by Defendants or their co-conspirators is submitted for warranty repair. Consumers who purchase MetroPCS Handsets from Defendants or their co-conspirators are unable to obtain warranty service in the event they experience problems with their Handsets. As a result, the MetroPCS reputation suffers.

43. MetroPCS's reputation is further damaged by its inability to assist those consumers who buy MetroPCS Handsets from Defendants, because despite bearing the MetroPCS Mark, they are no longer valid MetroPCS Handsets because the actions of Defendants and their co-conspirators voided the warranties and/or as identified Bad IMEI phones, they cannot be activated on MetroPCS service.

44. Defendants' conduct has resulted in substantial harm to Plaintiff's business reputation and goodwill; a greater likelihood of confusion, mistake, and deception as to the source of origin of MetroPCS products unlawfully sold by the Defendants and confusion as to what if any relationship exists between Plaintiff and Defendants.

#### **CIVIL LITIGATION AGAINST OTHER PHONE TRAFFICKERS**

45. Federal courts have recognized that conduct similar to Defendants' conduct is unlawful.

46. In addition to MetroPCS and T-Mobile USA, Inc., Sprint Solutions, Inc. and Sprint Communications Company L.P. ("Sprint), TracFone Wireless, Inc., Nokia Corporation, and

AT&T Mobility LLC have all filed lawsuits in numerous federal courts across the country against handset traffickers engaged in the practice of defrauding legitimate consumers and the telecommunications companies by acquiring large quantities of wireless telephones and reselling them for profit. Each of those companies has succeeded in obtaining Final Judgments and Permanent Injunctions. Copies of several examples of Final Judgments and Permanent Injunctions are attached hereto as **Composite Exhibit E**. A defendant in one case who continued trafficking in phones in violation of an injunction issued by the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas was charged with criminal contempt of court and sentenced to serve 57 months in prison. Copies of the Memorandum Opinion and Order of Contempt, Application for Criminal Contempt, the Order finding cause to believe the defendant is guilty of criminal contempt, and Judgment of Criminal Contempt are attached hereto as **Composite Exhibit F**.

#### **CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF PHONE TRAFFICKING**

47. Handset traffickers like Defendants have been the subject of numerous criminal investigations and prosecutions across the country. Some recent examples are:

- a. In August 2014, the United States Attorney for the District of Minnesota announced the indictment of 20 individuals engaged in the illegal acquisition and resale of tens of thousands of Smartphones to the black markets of the Middle East and China. A joint task force comprised of the U.S. Secret Service, the Minnesota Financial Crimes Task Force, and the St. Paul Police Department investigated and then apprehended members of the “Mustafa Organization,” who had been using runners, engaged in contract and subscription fraud, and robbery to acquire large quantities of subsidized phones for overseas resale.

- b. In March, 2013 the California Attorney General charged two individuals with trafficking nearly \$4M in wireless phones to Hong Kong over an 8 month period.
- c. On or about February 25, 2013, federal law enforcement authorities, including agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United States Secret Service, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, raided a warehouse belonging to a phone trafficking company called Wireless Buybacks in Elkridge, Maryland, pursuant to a search warrant and found the facilities were being used to harbor stolen wireless phones.
- d. On August 21, 2012, federal Homeland Security agents and SWAT teams conducted a raid on facilities operated by handset trafficker Ace Wholesale and on the home of the company's CEO, Jason Floarea. On October 16, 2014, Mr. Floarea pled guilty to Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property and on April 16, 2015, Floarea was sentenced to twelve (12) months and one day in federal prison.
- e. An FBI sting operation in Philadelphia that began with wireless phone trafficking resulted in the conviction of 16 individuals on terrorism charges, when it turned out that the proceeds from their phone trafficking and other illegal conduct was being funneled to the terrorist organization Hezbollah.

Copies of court documents, press releases, and news reports regarding these incidents are attached hereto as **Composite Exhibit G.**

### **COUNT ONE**

#### **UNFAIR COMPETITION**

48. Plaintiff reasserts the allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 44 above as though fully set forth herein.

49. Defendants' conduct in acquiring and/or inducing others to acquire the Handsets, disabling or unlocking, inducing others to disable or unlock, and/or assisting others to disable or unlock the Handsets, and reselling and/or assisting others to resell the Handsets as new for activation on other wireless networks constitutes unfair competition under the common law of the State of Texas.

50. Defendants' conduct in selling, inducing others to sell, and/or conspiring with others to sell unlocked MetroPCS Handsets undermines Plaintiff's incentive programs, illegally appropriates Plaintiff's investment in the Handsets, and constitutes unfair competition under the common law of the State of Texas.

51. Defendants' use of at least one of the MetroPCS Marks in connection with the sale of unlocked, materially-different MetroPCS Handsets has caused, and will further cause, a likelihood of confusion, mistake and deception as to the source of origin of Defendants' materially-different products and services, and the relationship between MetroPCS and Defendants. Thus, Defendants have also engaged in unfair competition with Plaintiff in violation of the common law of the State of Texas by selling and/or offering, and promoting their products with the intention of trading upon the goodwill established by MetroPCS and are thereby misappropriating the benefits of substantial effort and money expended by Plaintiff in establishing its rights in and to the MetroPCS Mark.

52. Defendants' actions were done in bad faith; they were intentional, malicious, and willful, and have caused substantial harm to Plaintiff.

53. Plaintiff is entitled to appropriate relief, including injunctive relief.



**COUNT TWO**

**TORTIOUS INTERFERENCE  
WITH BUSINESS RELATIONS**

54. Plaintiff reasserts the allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 44 above as though fully set forth herein.

55. A business relationship, and an expectancy of business relationships, exists between Plaintiff and authorized dealers of MetroPCS Handsets.

56. A business relationship, and an expectancy of business relationships, exists between Plaintiff and current and prospective MetroPCS customers.

57. There is a high probability of future economic benefit to Plaintiff as a result of these current and prospective business relationships.

58. Defendants have knowledge of and have intentionally and unjustifiably interfered with, and/or have knowingly facilitated a conspiracy to interfere with, these current and prospective business relationships between Plaintiff and authorized dealers who sell MetroPCS products, and legitimate MetroPCS customers or prospective customers.

59. Specifically, but without limitation, Defendants knew that Plaintiff has business relationships, and an expectancy of business relationships, with legitimate consumers of MetroPCS Handsets and wireless service. Defendants interfered with these relationships by engaging in the Handset Theft and Trafficking Scheme and causing, at least in part, Plaintiff to have an insufficient supply of MetroPCS Handsets available to meet legitimate consumer demand.

60. Defendants also knew that Plaintiff has business relationships with authorized dealers of MetroPCS Handsets to provide said dealers with sufficient quantities of MetroPCS Handsets for their legitimate consumers' use exclusively on MetroPCS's wireless network. Defendants' Scheme has resulted in significant numbers of new MetroPCS Handsets that are

diverted from service on MetroPCS, causing Handset shortages and thereby harming Plaintiff's relationship with its authorized dealers.

61. Defendants also knew that Plaintiff has business relationships with legitimate MetroPCS customers to provide them with Handsets and MetroPCS service.

62. Defendants are intentionally interfering with Plaintiff's business relationships and prospective advantages through improper means and in violation of the law.

63. Defendants engaged in the acts of interference set forth herein with a conscious desire to prevent the relationships from occurring or continuing, or Defendants knew that the interference was certain or substantially certain to occur as a result of their conduct.

64. As set forth fully below, Defendants' intentional interference was committed through the use of fraud and fraudulent misrepresentations to Defendants' direct benefit and to the detriment of Plaintiff.

65. Defendants' acts injured Plaintiff's business relationships.

66. Plaintiff has been proximately damaged and continues to be damaged as a result of Defendants' interference.

67. There is no adequate remedy at law to fully compensate Plaintiff for the harm caused by Defendants' tortious interference.

### **COUNT THREE**

#### **TORTIOUS INTERFERENCE WITH CONTRACTUAL RELATIONS**

68. Plaintiff reasserts the allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 44 above as though fully set forth herein.

69. A contractual relationship exists between Plaintiff and the purchasers of MetroPCS Handsets and wireless service, as set forth in the Terms and Conditions governing the acquisition and use of all MetroPCS Handsets.

70. Defendants have knowledge of and have intentionally and unjustifiably interfered with, and/or have knowingly facilitated a conspiracy to interfere with, these contracts between Plaintiff and its authorized dealers and legitimate MetroPCS customers.

71. Specifically, but without limitation, Defendants knew that Plaintiff has contractual relationships with legitimate consumers of MetroPCS Handsets and wireless service. Upon information and belief, Defendants interfered with these relationships by, inter alia, inducing the Runners and Mules or other purchasers of MetroPCS products to breach their contracts.

72. Defendants also knew that Plaintiff has contractual relationships with authorized dealers of MetroPCS Handsets under which these dealers will promote and sell MetroPCS products solely for activation with MetroPCS service. On information and belief, Defendants and/or their co-conspirators induce authorized MetroPCS dealers to breach their agreements with MetroPCS and provide new MetroPCS Handsets to Defendants for a purpose other than activation on MetroPCS service and at a financial loss to Plaintiff.

73. Defendants engaged in the acts of interference set forth herein with a conscious desire to induce breach of contract, or Defendants knew that breach of contract was certain or substantially certain to occur as a result of his conduct.

74. Plaintiff has been proximately damaged and continues to be damaged as a result of Defendants' interference.

75. There is no adequate remedy at law to fully compensate Plaintiff for the harm caused by Defendants' tortious interference.

**COUNT FOUR**

**CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT FRAUD  
AND FRAUDULENT MISREPRESENTATION**

76. Plaintiff reasserts the allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 44 above and Paragraphs 88 through 95 below as though fully set forth herein.

77. An agreement and conspiracy existed and continues to exist between and among the Defendants and their co-conspirators to unlawfully acquire in bulk, traffic, and resell unlawfully unlocked and altered MetroPCS Handsets under at least one of the MetroPCS Marks, which results in federal common law and statutory trademark infringement, common law unfair competition, contributory trademark infringement, tortious interference with business relationships and prospective advantage, unjust enrichment, and violations of the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, among other things.

78. Each Defendant knowingly agreed to engage, and did engage, in one or more overt acts in pursuit of the conspiracy as set forth with more particularity in this Complaint.

79. Plaintiff has been proximately damaged by the conspiracy and Defendants' actions in furtherance thereof.

80. There is no adequate remedy at law to fully compensate Plaintiff for the harm caused by Defendants' conspiracy.

**COUNT FIVE**

**UNJUST ENRICHMENT**

81. Plaintiff reasserts the allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 44 above as though fully set forth herein.

82. By bulk acquisition of MetroPCS Handsets at less than the manufacturer cost of the Handsets with no intention of using the Handsets on MetroPCS service, Defendants have obtained

benefits from Plaintiff which have caused significant harm to Plaintiff and resulted in significant financial gain to Defendants through their resale of the illicitly-acquired MetroPCS Handsets.

83. Defendants have acquired the benefits voluntarily and with full knowledge of the benefits.

84. Defendants have retained the benefits under such circumstances that make it unjust and inequitable for Defendants to retain the benefits without paying Plaintiff the value of the benefits Defendants acquired.

85. There is no adequate remedy at law to fully compensate Plaintiff for the harm caused by Defendants' unjust enrichment.

### **COUNT SIX**

#### **COMMON LAW FRAUD AND FRAUDULENT MISREPRESENTATION**

86. Plaintiff reasserts the allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 44 above as though fully set forth herein.

87. As part of the Handset Theft and Trafficking Scheme, each Defendant, directly or indirectly through co-conspirators, regularly and systematically misrepresent to Plaintiff that the MetroPCS Handsets are being acquired for a legitimate purpose, that the Handsets will be used by Defendants or other legitimate consumers with MetroPCS service, and that they will perform in accordance with the Terms and Conditions.

88. On information and belief, each Defendant defrauded Plaintiff, and its legitimate customers, to acquire MetroPCS products, to be unlocked, resold, and ultimately shipped overseas for activation on foreign carrier networks.

89. When Defendants, directly or through their co-conspirators, acquire MetroPCS Handsets as part of the Scheme, they do not intend to use the Handsets for a legitimate purpose or

to activate them or maintain them as active on MetroPCS service, or otherwise perform in accordance with the Terms and Conditions.

90. Defendants and their co-conspirators know that they are required to activate the MetroPCS Handsets for use on Plaintiff's service, pay the monthly service charge, and otherwise comply with the Terms and Conditions.

91. Defendants intended for Plaintiff to rely on their misrepresentations, and/or the misrepresentations of their co-conspirators, to allow Defendants to acquire and unlock the Handsets for improper purposes.

92. Plaintiff's reliance on the misrepresentations of Defendants and their co-conspirators was reasonable under the circumstances.

93. Plaintiff has been damaged and continues to suffer damages as a result of Defendants' actions.

94. There is no adequate remedy at law to fully compensate Plaintiff for the harm caused by Defendants' fraud.

### **COUNT SEVEN**

#### **CONSPIRACY TO INDUCE BREACH OF CONTRACT**

95. Plaintiff reasserts the allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 44 above as though fully set forth herein.

96. Upon information and belief, Defendants solicit Runners and Mules to acquire MetroPCS Handsets in bulk for the benefit of Defendants.

97. Upon information and belief, Defendants' active solicitation of Runners and Mules includes contacting these individuals and requesting specific MetroPCS Handset models.

98. Plaintiff had valid and existing contracts with these Runners and Mules and other original purchasers of the Handsets (“Purchasers”).

99. Defendants had knowledge of the contracts between Plaintiff and Purchasers, and intended to, and in fact did, induce Purchasers to breach their contracts with Plaintiff.

100. The breaches of the contracts were proximately caused by Defendants’ misconduct.

101. Plaintiff suffered damages as a result.

### **COUNT EIGHT**

#### **FEDERAL TRADEMARK INFRINGEMENT 15 U.S.C. § 1114 [§ 32(1) of the Lanham Act]**

102. Plaintiff reasserts the allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 44 above as though fully set forth herein.

103. Defendants’ and/or their co-conspirators’ aforementioned conduct constitutes use of certain federally-registered MetroPCS Marks without authorization in connection with their conspiracy to sell and offer for sale unlocked, materially-different MetroPCS Handsets, which downstream customers will discover have been altered from their original state and do not include the warranties, accessories, manuals and related items that constitute part of the MetroPCS Handset package.

104. Defendants’ and/or their co-conspirators’ use of certain federally-registered MetroPCS Marks in connection with the sale of MetroPCS Handsets has caused, and will further cause, a likelihood of confusion, mistake and deception as to the source of origin of Defendants’ infringing products, and the relationship between Plaintiff and Defendants.

105. Defendants’ and/or their co-conspirators’ unauthorized use of certain federally-registered MetroPCS Marks in connection with their participation in the Scheme is likely to

continue in the future, all to the great and irreparable damage to the business, reputation and goodwill of Plaintiff.

106. Defendants' and/or their co-conspirators' use of certain federally-registered MetroPCS Marks in connection with the unlocked, materially-different MetroPCS Handsets, which do not include warranties, manuals, accessories and related items made part of the MetroPCS Handset package, and may have been flagged as "Bad IMEI" Handsets and not able to be activated with MetroPCS service, constitutes a misappropriation of Plaintiff's distinguishing and identifying federally-registered trademarks that were created as a result of significant effort and expense by Plaintiff and its predecessor-in-interest over a long period of time.

107. Defendants' and/or their co-conspirators' use of certain federally-registered MetroPCS Marks evokes an immediate, favorable impression or association and constitutes a false representation that the products and business of Defendants have some connection, association or affiliation with Plaintiff, and is likely to mislead the trade and public into believing that Defendants' products and services originate from, are affiliated with, or are sponsored, authorized, approved or sanctioned by Plaintiff.

108. Defendants, in committing the foregoing acts in commerce, have damaged, and will continue to damage, Plaintiff and the reputation and goodwill of Plaintiff, and have been unjustly enriched and will continue to unjustly enrich themselves at the expense of Plaintiff.

109. Plaintiff is without an adequate remedy at law to redress such acts, and will be irreparably damaged unless Defendants are enjoined from committing and continuing to commit such acts.

110. Defendants' aforesaid acts constitute willful infringement of Plaintiff's aforementioned federally registered trademarks in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1114.



**COUNT NINE**

**FEDERAL COMMON LAW TRADEMARK INFRINGEMENT  
AND FALSE ADVERTISING**

**15 U.S.C. § 1125 (a)(1)(A) and (B) [§ 43(a) of the Lanham Act]**

111. Plaintiff reasserts the allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 44 above as though fully set forth herein.

112. Defendants' and/or their co-conspirators' aforementioned conduct constitutes use of at least one of the MetroPCS Marks without authorization in connection with their conspiracy to sell and offer for sale unlocked, materially-different MetroPCS Handsets, which downstream customers will discover have been altered from their original state, are inoperable on MetroPCS service, and do not include the warranties, accessories, manuals and related items that constitute part of the MetroPCS Handset package.

113. Defendants' and/or their co-conspirators' use of at least one of the MetroPCS Marks in connection with the sale of unlocked, materially-different MetroPCS Handsets has caused, and will further cause, a likelihood of confusion, mistake and deception as to the source of origin of Defendants' materially-different products, and the relationship between Plaintiff and Defendants.

114. Defendants' and/or their co-conspirators' unauthorized use of at least one of the MetroPCS Marks is likely to continue in the future, all to the great and irreparable damage to the business, reputation, and goodwill of Plaintiff.

115. Defendants' and/or their co-conspirators' use of at least one of the MetroPCS Marks in connection with the unlocked, materially-different MetroPCS Handsets, which do not include warranties, manuals, accessories and related items made part of the MetroPCS Handset package, and, in some cases, have been flagged as "Bad IMEI" Handsets and not able to be

activated on MetroPCS service, constitutes a misappropriation of at least one of the distinguishing and identifying MetroPCS Marks that was created as a result of significant effort and expense.

116. Defendants' and/or their co-conspirators' use of at least one of the MetroPCS Marks evokes an immediate, favorable impression or association and constitutes a false representation that the products and business of Defendants have some connection, association or affiliation with MetroPCS, and thus constitutes false designation of origin and is likely to mislead the trade and public into believing that Defendants' products and services originate from, are affiliated with, or are sponsored, authorized, approved or sanctioned by MetroPCS. Defendants are not affiliated with MetroPCS in any way.

117. Defendants, in committing the foregoing acts in commerce, have damaged and will continue to damage Plaintiff and Plaintiff's reputation, and have been unjustly enriched and will continue to unjustly enrich themselves at Plaintiff's expense.

118. Plaintiff is without an adequate remedy at law to redress such acts, and will be irreparably damaged unless Defendants are enjoined from committing and continuing to commit such acts.

119. Defendants' use of at least one of the MetroPCS Marks in advertising or promotion misrepresents the nature, characteristics, and/or qualities of their infringing products. Such advertising and promotion is false and/or misleading and deceives or has the capacity to deceive consumers. The deception and misrepresentations have a material effect on the purchasing decisions and affect interstate commerce.

120. Defendants' activities constitute false designation of origin, false descriptions and representations, and false advertising in commerce in violation of § 43(a) of the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a)(1)(A) and (B).

121. Plaintiff is entitled to appropriate relief requested herein, including preliminary and permanent injunctive relief.

122. Defendants knew or should have known that Plaintiff is the owner of the MetroPCS Marks and that Defendants have no legal right to use any of the MetroPCS Marks on their infringing products.

123. Defendants are engaged in and continue to engage in the alleged activities knowingly, willfully and deliberately, so as to justify the assessment of exemplary damages and an award of Plaintiff's lost profits, Defendants' profits, and Plaintiff's attorneys' fees.

### **COUNT TEN**

#### **CONTRIBUTORY TRADEMARK INFRINGEMENT**

124. Plaintiff reasserts the allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 44 above as though fully set forth herein.

125. By misappropriating and using at least one of the MetroPCS Marks in connection with the Handset Theft and Trafficking Scheme, Defendants knowingly aided and enabled distributors and/or sellers of their products to market them to members of the general public in a way that infringes at least one of the MetroPCS Marks by placing in the hands of distributors and/or sellers an instrument of consumer deception.

126. Defendants' unlawful, unauthorized, and unlicensed sale of unlocked MetroPCS Handsets has contributed to the creation of express and implied misrepresentations that the MetroPCS Handsets, as sold by Defendants, were created, authorized or approved by Plaintiff, may be activated on MetroPCS service, and include warranties.

127. Upon information and belief, Defendants' conduct leads to post-sale confusion by causing consumers who purchase MetroPCS Handsets from Defendants or their co-conspirators to

believe that they are purchasing legitimate MetroPCS handsets approved by Plaintiff that can be activated on MetroPCS service and contain original warranties.

128. Defendants' conduct constitutes contributory infringement in violation of the Trademark Act. Defendants' conduct is intentional, malicious and willful.

129. Plaintiff has been damaged and continues to suffer damages as a result of Defendants' actions.

130. There is no adequate remedy at law to fully compensate Plaintiff for the harm caused by Defendants' actions.

### **COUNT ELEVEN**

#### **CONVERSION**

131. Plaintiff reasserts the allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 44 above as though fully set forth herein.

132. Defendants have and are engaged in acts of conversion in violation of the law of the State of Texas.

133. Plaintiff has the right to provide MetroPCS Handsets and wireless service to the public. Defendants have no such privilege or right.

134. Defendants knew or should have known that they obtained the Handsets through illegitimate means and had no legal right to advertise, use or resell them.

135. Defendants are wrongfully interfering with Plaintiff's rights by engaging in the Handset Theft and Trafficking Scheme.

136. Defendants intentionally and willfully exerted dominion and ownership over the MetroPCS Handsets.

137. Defendants' conversion of Plaintiff's property has caused and continues to cause Plaintiff to suffer irreparable injury, loss of reputation, and exemplary damages to be proved at trial. Unless enjoined by this Court, Defendants will continue these acts, thereby causing Plaintiff further immediate and irreparable damage.

### **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all triable issues.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Court enter final judgment and permanent injunctive relief in favor of Plaintiff and against Defendants, as follows:

- (a) awarding Plaintiff its compensatory, consequential, statutory and special damages including, without limitation, its lost profits, Defendants' profits, loss of goodwill and damage to its reputation, as well as exemplary damages, together with pre and post judgment interest, as provided by law;
- (b) awarding Plaintiff its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs associated with this action;
- (c) granting permanent injunctive relief in favor of Plaintiff and against Defendants enjoining Defendants from engaging in the unlawful practices described in this Complaint;
- (d) requiring Defendants, pursuant to the Lanham Act, to deliver to Plaintiff its entire inventory of phones and products bearing or infringing the MetroPCS Marks or a confusingly similar copy thereof; and
- (e) granting such further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted this 4<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2016.

By: /s/April R. Terry

April R. Terry

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